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New Orleans --(Reuters)---The prospects for an early trial for accused presidnetial murder conspirator Clay L. Shaw dimmed today, and attorneys were predicting the long-awaited courtroom drama would be delayed until after Christmas.

Lawyers for the 54-year-old retired New Olrwans businessman last week asked the court to delay Shaw's trial at least six months or change it to another jurisdiction.

They said that Shaw, accused by Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison of participating in a plot to murder the late President John F. Kennedy at Dallas, could not get a fair trial in New Orleans "now or in the near future."

Garrison's office replied to the motion incourt today. The DA's office objected to a change of venue but said it would not stand in the way of a "reasonable delay."

Asst. DA James L. Alcock said he did not expect the trial would begin until after the Christmas season.